

3rd Quarter – Week 13

(Societal Lawlessness – Civil War - Declining Nation)

<p>Day 1 Judges 14-15</p>	<p>Key Thoughts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Samson demands a Philistine wife against his parents counsel and God's will. God weaves his disobedience into His sovereign plan to fracture the Philistine oppression (14:1-4). • Samson kills a lion with his bare hands empowered by the Holy Spirit. He then, later, comes back and eats honey from the carcass of the lion. This is a violation of Nazarite vows. At his wedding feast, Samson challenges 30 Philistines to solve a riddle. His bride betrays him giving away the answer to the riddle. Filled with the spirit he kills 30 men to pay the wager and abandons his wife (14:5-29). • Samson returns to his wife only to find her father has given her away to his best man. Samson burns down the Philistines fields with foxes tied together and lit on fire. The Philistines burn his wife and father-in-law prompting Samson to kill more. The men of Judah bind Samson to hand him over. He breaks free and kills 1000 Philistines with the jawbone of a donkey (15:1-20). <p>Jesus Christ: The betrayal and killing of Jesus was according to human will but in God's sovereign plan.</p>
<p>Day 2 Judges 16</p>	<p>Key Thoughts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Samson visits a prostitute. The Philistines surround the city to trap him. He tears up the city gates and walks away. Samson falls for Deliah and the Philistines rulers bribe her to find his strength. Samson keeps telling her the wrong source of his strength (16:1-14). • Samson finally gives in to Delilah and tells her the source of his strength is in his hair. She cuts his hair and he is captured by the Philistines. He is blinded , and forced to grind grain (16:15-21). • Samson's hair begins to grow back in captivity. The Philistines gather to celebrate their victory. Samson bound between the temple's pillar prays for strength. God answers his prayer and he brings down the temple sacrificing his life while killing thousands of Philistines (16:22-31). <p>Jesus Christ: The work of Christ does not rely on human strength.</p>
<p>Day 3 Judges 17-18</p>	<p>Key Thoughts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Micah steals from his mother and then created a false god and appointed his son to be his priest. He is an example of the sin taking place in Israel. Micah then hires his own Levite to be his personal priest, it is more sin (17:1-13). • The tribe of Dan is losing land because they failed to drive out the enemy. They identify the city of Laish as land to take (18:1-10). • 600 Danite men set out to Laish. On the way, they steal Micah's idol and convince his personal priest to join them. Micah pursues them but he turns back being outnumbered. The Danites then take the city of Laish and set up a false idol along with the new priest for their tribe (18:11-31). <p>Jesus Christ: Jesus as God is the one Who determines right and wrong. Micah and the Danites set up their own false gods and religion to determine for themselves what is right and what is wrong.</p>

<p>Day 4 Judges 19</p>	<p>Key Thoughts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Levite takes a concubine from Bethlehem. She runs back to her father's house for four months. The Levites travels to Bethlehem in an attempt to bring her back. Her father attempts to delay her return (19:1-9). • On the trip home, they stay overnight in Gibeah, a town belonging to the tribe of Benjamin. An old man takes them into his home for the night (19:10-21). • Wicked men surround the house in which they are staying. They demand the Levite be handed over to them for their pleasure. The guest refuses and offers his daughter and the concubine instead. The Levite thrusts his concubine out the door and she is abused all night (19:22-26). • The Levite finds his concubine dead in the morning. He takes her home and cuts up her body and sends one piece to each tribe of Israel (19:27-30). <p>Jesus Christ: The total depravity of man is on full display in Judges 19. God unveils the horrors on sin and offers Jesus as the only answer.</p>
<p>Day 5 Judges 20</p>	<p>Key Thoughts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The brutal murder of the Levite's concubine causes all the tribes to demand justice. They hear the Levites testimony and vow to not return to their homes until Gibeah is punished (20:1-11). • Israel sends messengers to the tribe of Benjamin demanding they hand over the guilty in the city of Gibeah. Benjamin refuses and instead gathers an army to defend the wicked (20:12-17). • Israel goes up against the tribe of Benjamin and suffers defeat two straight times. They continue to seek God's will and on the third day they kills 25,000 Benjamite shouldered, and burn down the city. Only 600 men escape (20:18-48). <p>Jesus Christ: The Book of Judges demonstrates how God refuses to let evil go unchecked. And all of history is headed to ultimate manifestation of God's glory through Jesus.</p>
<p>Day 6 Judges 21</p>	<p>Key Thoughts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The people of Israel regret the oath to not give their daughters to marry a man from the tribe of Benjamin. But instead of seeking God's will, they create their own plan. They slaughter the people of Jebish-gilead for not joining the war. They take 400 young virgins and give them to the tribe of Benjamin whose 600 remaining men needed wives (21:1-15). • The 400 women are not enough. The elders scheme again telling the Benjamites to kidnap young woman during an annual festival. The book concludes "everyone did what was right in their own eyes" (21:16-25). <p>Jesus Christ: Only Jesus Christ ruling in the heart of a man can overcome the effect and power of sin.</p>